

Memorandum

Date : January 19, 2001

To : Management Agencies

From : Project Agencies
Department of Water Resources

Subject: Fish Action Proposal

Description of Action

Per CALFED Operations Juvenile Salmon Protection Plan, exports may be reduced to approximately 6,000 cfs combined for a five-day period when the Knights Landing or Sacramento Catch Index reaches a value of 10. On Monday, January 15, the Sacramento Index exceeded 10. As a result, the Management Agencies requested a five-day reduction in exports. Also, per the Juvenile Salmon Protection Plan, the Delta Cross Channel gates were closed on Sunday, January 14 because the Sacramento Catch Index was greater than 5 on Saturday. The export reduction to 6,000 cfs is to begin on Wednesday, January 17 and end on Sunday, January 21. This five-day curtailment will be concurrent with a three-day curtailment for a CVPIA experiment described below. Depending on the status of fish movement, as inferred from monitoring results, additional actions may be recommended after January 21.

In addition to requesting the five-day export reduction to 6,000 cfs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting an additional reduction to 3,000 cfs for three of the five days to accommodate the fourth trial of a special fishery study. Radio tagged juvenile salmon (12 to 15 tagged salmon per trial with each fish having a separate radio frequency) will be released in lower Old River and their movements tracked by mobile receivers on jet boats during daylight hours for two to three days following each release. A stationary radio receiver will be mounted at the entrance to Clifton Court Forebay. The study is being conducted under both high and low exports in order to determine the potential effect of net reverse flows in Lower Old River. Two trials were conducted in December with high exports. This week's release will be the second trial carried out under low exports. The first low export trial was completed last week. Instantaneous flow direction, velocity measurements and exact channel locations of individual fish will be made during the tracking. The 3,000 cfs export period is planned to begin in the morning of January 18 and end late afternoon (after 3 p.m.) January 20. If the radio tagged salmon leave the trackable vicinity before three days elapse,

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effectively ending the experiment, the curtailment to 3,000 cfs may end early and exports may return to 6,000 cfs.

Taken together, these two planned actions will result in exports of 3,000 cfs for three days and 6,000 cfs for two days.

Estimated Cost Of Action

The Department of Water Resources has estimated that these actions could reduce combined Central Valley Project and State Water Project exports by approximately 48 TAF (about 28 TAF for CVP and 20 TAF for SWP). The estimate assumes exports would continue at a combined level approximately between 8,200 and 10,200 cfs in the base operation. The actual amount could be more if the anticipated weather system, which may move through Northern California early next week, provides sufficient precipitation to the Sacramento Valley, or if the inflows to the Delta do not recede as quickly as anticipated. However, if it does not, then water quality conditions in the Delta may degrade requiring the projects to reduce exports. Or, the actual amount could be less if hydrologic conditions remain dry and higher pumping is achieved following the period of reduction. DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation have not performed a cost analysis of the change in operations.

Method Of Accounting For Costs

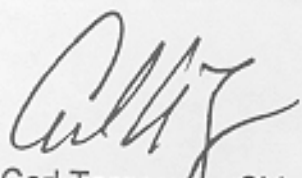
DWR and Reclamation will provide to the Management Agencies an accounting of the actual water, energy, storage and conveyance costs. The water cost analysis will be provided within thirty days of completing the action and will include a comparison between the actual operation (with the fish action) and a base operation (based on planned exports). All other costs will be submitted thirty days upon completion of the recovery actions. Disagreements regarding the analysis are to be discussed within the B2/EWA Interagency Team. Disputes will be reviewed by the Ops Group and elevated to the Water Operations Management Team for final resolution.

B(2)/EWA Assets

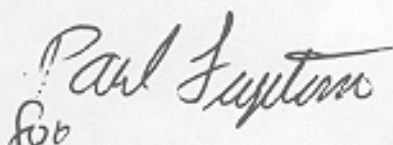
The Management Agencies have concluded that this may be a joint b(2)/EWA action. Therefore, both b(2) and EWA assets may be applied to the

export reductions of the CVP and SWP. The proposed fish action is not to impact the baseline delivery capability of the CVP and SWP. Therefore, DWR and Reclamation are to make operations and water allocation decisions based upon the base operations plan, absent the fish action.

Currently, the EWA has 72 TAF of water being held in San Luis Reservoir by Reclamation and 13 TAF being held by DWR. The water held by DWR will be used first to meet the SWP needs. If additional water is needed, Reclamation will make a portion of the 72 TAF it is holding available to the SWP in O'Neill Forebay. The amount of water and the time it becomes available will be determined when DWR/Reclamation submit the final water cost analysis to the Management Agencies.



Carl Torgerson, Chief
Operations Control Office
Division of Operations
And Maintenance



Bob
Chester Bowling, Operations Manager
Central Valley Operations
Bureau of Reclamation